

Serial No. 10/028,335
Amendment Dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of May 18, 2004

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating early brain development, the method comprising:

obtaining a system for facilitating early brain development, wherein said system targets a predetermined stage of development by including items in a housing specifically related to said predetermined stage, such that said housing includes at least one different item related to each area of brain development, wherein said areas of brain development include security, touch, eyes, play and sound; ~~wherein said housing also includes indicia of said predetermined stage configured to be viewed from the outside of said housing and activity cards within said housing;~~

selecting an activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one selected activity associated with at least one of said items that stimulates a predetermined aspect of brain development and promotes early brain development and wherein said activity card further describes at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills;

engaging a child's attention to facilitate an interactive play session with a caregiver; modeling said selected activity for said child using said item from said housing and following said directions on said activity card to instruct said child how to perform said selected activity; and

prompting said child to perform said selected activity.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a system comprises:

obtaining stage-specific activity cards comprising caregiver directions for facilitating said interactive play session with said child; and

obtaining a first item whose use by a caregiver during said interactive play session with said child is designed to stimulate a predetermined aspect of brain development, said predetermined aspect of brain development comprising at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination.

Serial No. 10/028,335
Amendment Dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of May 18, 2004

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein obtaining a system further comprises obtaining a second item whose use by a caregiver during an interactive play session with a child is designed to foster a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development, said predetermined concept comprising at least one of attention, bonding, and communication.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting an activity card further comprises selecting an activity card which includes at least one of a list of alternate activities and a list of activity variations, wherein each of said alternate activities and said activity variations is selected to foster at least one of said predetermined aspect of brain development and a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined aspect of brain development comprises at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined concept comprises at least one of attention, bonding, and communication.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein engaging a child's attention comprises focusing a child's attention on an activity by establishing eye contact with said child and directing said child's attention to a defined space.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein engaging a child's attention further comprises encouraging said child through a visual stimulus.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said visual stimulus comprises at least one of varied facial expressions and use of an object.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein engaging a child's attention further comprises encouraging said child through an auditory stimulus, said auditory stimulus comprises use of a sound-generating object.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein engaging a child's attention further comprises encouraging said child through an auditory stimulus, said auditory stimulus comprises varied voice intonations wherein said varied voice intonations comprise at least one of volume, pitch, intensity, and inflection.

Serial No. 10/028,335
Amendment Dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of May 18, 2004

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prompting said child to perform said selected activity comprises providing instructions to said child in a predetermined manner.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said predetermined manner comprises at least one of speaking slowly, speaking quietly, speaking simply, speaking excitedly, and giving minimal verbal cues.

Claims 14-15 (canceled).

16. (currently Amended) A method for facilitating early brain development, the method comprising:

obtaining stage-specific activity cards from a housing, wherein said activity cards comprising (i) caregiver directions for facilitating an interactive play session with a child, (ii) at least one selected activity associated with at least one of said items that stimulates a predetermined aspect of brain development and promotes early brain development, (iii) a description of at least one importance of said selected activity to the development of the brain, (iv) a description of at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills, (v) background information about the type of activity, (vi) suggestions about what to say to the child, and (vii) similar activities that can also be accomplished to work on the same skills; and wherein said housing includes items specifically related to said predetermined stage, ~~indicia of said predetermined stage configured to be viewed from the outside of said housing and~~ activity cards within said housing;

obtaining at least one item from said housing, wherein said item is specifically related to said predetermined stage and said housing includes at least one item related to each area of brain development, wherein said areas of brain development include security, touch, eyes, play and sound, and following said directions on said activity card wherein said item use by a caregiver during said interactive play session with said child is designed to stimulate a predetermined aspect of brain development, said predetermined aspect of brain development comprising at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination;

selecting an activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one activity that stimulates said predetermined aspect of brain development;

engaging a child's attention to facilitate said interactive play session with said caregiver;

Serial No. 10/028,335

Amendment Dated August 18, 2004

Reply to Final Office Action of May 18, 2004

modeling a selected activity for said child to instruct said child how to perform said selected activity; and

prompting said child to perform said selected activity.

Claims 17-20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said activity card includes selecting said activity card, wherein said activity card further specifically describes at least one of: (i) at least one importance of said selected activity to the development of the brain, ~~(ii) at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills, (iii)~~ background information about the type of activity, ~~(iv)~~ directions on how to specifically perform the activity, ~~(v)~~ suggestions about what to say to the child, and ~~(vi)~~ similar activities that can also be accomplished to work on the same skills.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting said activity card includes selecting said activity card, wherein said activity card further specifically describes (i) at least one importance of said selected activity to the development of the brain, (ii) at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills, (iii) background information about the type of activity, (iv) directions on how to specifically perform the activity, (v) suggestions about what to say to the child, and (vi) similar activities that can also be accomplished to work on the same skills.

23. (New) A method for facilitating early brain development, the method comprising: obtaining a electronic system for facilitating early brain development, wherein said system targets a predetermined stage of development by including items in each of a plurality of databases, wherein each database is specifically related to said predetermined stage, such that said database includes a picture of at least one different suggested item related to each area of brain development, wherein said areas of brain development include security, touch, eyes, play and sound;

selecting an electronic activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one selected activity associated with at least one of said items that stimulates a predetermined aspect of brain development and promotes early brain development and wherein said electronic activity card further describes at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills;

Serial No. 10/028,335
Amendment Dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of May 18, 2004

engaging a child's attention to facilitate an interactive play session with a caregiver;
modeling said selected activity for said child using said suggested item and following
said directions on said electronic activity card to instruct said child how to perform said selected
activity; and
prompting said child to perform said selected activity.